

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04

OPIC-06 SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 H-02

PA-02 PRS-01 INT-05 STR-04 /103 W

-----131747Z 031838 /43

R 131617Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1600

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY BISSAU

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 0373

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EIND, ECIN, IV, NI, TO, UV, VE

SUBJ: IVORY COAST INAUGURATES CONSTRUCTION

OF BITUMEN MANUFACTURING COMPLEX

1. ON 12 JANUARY 1977, MAMADOU COULIBALY, PRESIDENT

OF THE IVORIAN CONSEIL ECONOMIQUE ET SOCIAL, LAID

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THE FOUNDATION STONE FOR A MAJOR BITUMEN MANUFACTURING
COMPLEX TO BE LOCATED AT ABIDJAN.

2. THE BITUMEN COMPLEX, UNDER THE OVER-ALL
SUPERVISION OF PETROCI, THE IVORIAN NATIONAL PETROLEUM
COMPANY, WILL BE MANAGED BY THE SOON-TO-BE-CREATED
SOCIETE MULTINATIONALE DE BITUME (SMB). PETROCI

DIRECTOR-GENERAL ADAMA TOUNGARA WILL BECOME PRESIDENT OF SMB, WHICH WILL BE CAPITALIZED AT 600 MILLION FRANCS CFA (US\$2,400,000) DIVIDED AS FOLLOWS: TWO PERCENT TO THE SOCIETE IVORIENNE DE RAFFINAGE (NATIONAL REFINING COMPANY); FIVE PERCENT TO PRIVATE FOREIGN INVESTORS; THIRTEEN PERCENT TO PRIVATE IVORIAN INVESTORS; AND EIGHTY PERCENT TO THE IVORIAN GOVERNMENT. THE GOIC HAS ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION TO MAKE AVAILABLE TWENTY-FOUR PERCENT TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF NIGERIA, TOGO AND UPPER VOLTA, WHICH HAVE EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN WHAT IS BEING TOUTED AS A "REGIONAL" ENTERPRISE.

3. COST OF CONSTRUCTION IS ESTIMATED AT FIVE BILLION FRANCS CFA (US\$20 MILLION, AND CONSTRUCTION IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY MARCH 1978. THE COMPLEX WILL PHYSICALLY COVER 35,000 SQUARE METERS AND HAVE A PRODUCTION CAPACITY OF 250,000 METRIC TONS PER YEAR, PERMITTING THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED TO MAKE CONSIDERABLE CUTS IN BITUMEN IMPORT BILLS. THE GOIC ESTIMATES THAT IVORY COAST ALONE MAY BE ABLE TO SAVE UP TO ONE BILLION FRANCS CFA (US\$4 MILLION) PER YEAR IN IMPORT COSTS. ADDITION OF THE BITUMEN PLANT WILL MAKE ESSENTIALLY COMPLETE THE IVORIAN REFINING COMPLEX AT VRIDI NEAR ABIDJAN.

4. THE 12 JANUARY CEREMONY WAS ATTENDED BY THE MINISTERS OF MINES FROM GHANA, UPPER VOLTA, AND UNCLASSIFIED

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MALI. PRESS REPORTS FROM THE PREVIOUS DAY ALSO INDICATED THE EXPECTED PRESENCE OF A VENEZUELAN DELEGATION LED BY GENERAL RAFAEL ALPHONSE RAVARD, PRESIDENT OF "PETROLEOS". ALTHOUGH RAVARD WAS NOT MENTIONED IN ACTUAL PRESS COVERAGE OF THE EVENT, VENEZUELAN INTEREST MAY BE CONFIRMED BY REPORTS THAT VENEZUELA AND IVORY COAST HAVE SIGNED AN AGREEMENT FOR IVORIAN IMPORTATION OF 250,000 METRIC TONS PER YEAR OF VENEZUELAN HEAVY CRUDE, BEGINNING IN JUNE 1978.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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